

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
March 7, 1930

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed February 28, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

BENEFICIENT TROPICAL CYCLONES

Tropical cyclones are not always severe storms, and even those that are include only a relatively small area of destructive winds, outside of which the copious rainfall brought by these disturbances is often very beneficial to crops.

Prof. S. S. Visher writes on this subject:

"The minor tropical cyclones, although not at all destructive because of their cyclonic winds, cause some damage by producing thunderstorms, with associated squalls, lightning and heavy rain, but on the average they are much more beneficial than harmful. Only a fifth or so of the world's tropical cyclones have destructive winds, and as less than a tenth do any considerable amount of damage, while all, even the worst storms, do good by bringing rainfall, it appears that tropical cyclones are, as a class, much more beneficial than harmful. This is despite the fact that tropical cyclones cause several times as many deaths a year, on an average, as do tornadoes, and hence are, in the aggregate, the world's most destructive storms."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D. C.